

Reddit in the Classroom

Professional Development by Beverly DiCocco

Professional Development Lesson Plan
April 28, 2012
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
30 teachers

Preparation:

1. Make sure that 30 laptops with Internet access are secured.
2. Make sure instructor computer is available with access to overhead.
3. Make 30 copies of all handout and staple.
4. Set up Reddit community for class.
5. Complete Prezi about Reddit and review.
6. Create a Word document with a basic table to record concerns with using website.

Materials:

1. Reddit Prezi
2. Access to instructor computer connected to overhead
3. Access to Word or word processing document
4. Laptops with Internet access
5. Handouts for participants
6. CNN article about President Obama honoring teachers to post to Reddit. Article found at the following link: <http://whitehouse.blogs.cnn.com/2012/04/24/obama-honors-teacher-of-the-year-finalists/>

Objectives:

Participants will be able to:

1. Describe the features of Reddit.com.
2. Navigate Reddit.com to find subreddits, participate in the Reddit community, post individual reddits, and learn how to establish Reddit community.
3. Evaluate Reddit.com as a source to be used in your classroom or school district.
4. Write your own lesson plan that capitalizes on the features of Reddit.
5. Reflect on potential uses for Reddit in your practice.

Procedures:

Time	Procedure
9:00-9:15	Introduce myself, and ask each class member to introduce himself or herself. Ask participants to state their name, where they teach or work, and why they decided to participate in today's workshop. While students are presenting, pass around handout.

9:15-9:20	Talk briefly about the fact that we are going to study Reddit today and that my rationale for studying Reddit is that I see Reddit on many news sites, blogs, and other websites. I wanted to understand the website and find out its potential uses for the classroom. Draw participants' attention to objectives listed on Page 1 of the handout. Explain that even if teachers decide at the end of the workshop that they do not think it would be appropriate to use Reddit in their classroom, they will benefit from the workout by learning about a Web 2.0 tool that they can use for their own knowledge.
9:20-9:25	Ask teachers if anyone has ever used Reddit before and to volunteer what they know about Reddit and how they use it (in their daily lives or in the classroom). If participants are familiar with the genre and have uses to share, record their responses in a Word document.
9:25-9:30	Explain that we are going to spend some time viewing Reddit and observing its features. First, however, I will give a brief overview of Reddit through my Prezi. (Go over slides that include overview of Reddit and its connections to literacy. Mention to participants that connections to literacy are also listed on their handouts.) Ask if anyone has any questions.
9:30-9:45	Ask participants to open laptops and connect to the Internet. Explain that participants will have 10 minutes to observe Reddit and its features. Ask participants to jot notes either on their computers or on paper about the features of Reddit. Model the process of visiting the website by typing the site name into the browser so participants can observe on the overhead. Ask participants to spend 10 minutes on the website and to note any features of Reddit.
9:40-9:50	Ask pairs to spend 5 minutes discussing together what they noticed.
9:50-10:00	Ask pairs to share with the whole class what they discussed. Record their responses in the Word document so everyone can see.
10:00-10:15	Ask if, after viewing the website, anyone has any concerns about using Reddit. Direct participants to the handout page where they can write down their possible concerns. Ask participants to turn to their partner to share their concerns. After 5 minutes, ask participants to share as a whole class. Record responses in a table in a Word document in the left-hand column.
10:15-10:30	Explain that while there are many concerns with using the website, there could be possible ways that we can still use this Web 2.0 tool in the classroom. Ask group to brainstorm ways to address or avoid these problems in the classroom.
10:30-10:40	Groups share possible solutions to the addressed problems.
10:40-10:45	After groups share, return to the Prezi to go over the issue of Internet Safety. Most likely, students will have talked about potential concerns in this regard. Share ideas from the Prezi about different ways that this can be dealt with in the classroom and supplement with ideas that were shared by participants.
10:45-11:00	Break. Depending on how much time is left, offer students a 5-10 minute break at this point.
11:00-11:01	Explain what we will do for the rest of the lesson. First, we will visit Reddit.com and explore subreddits specifically for teachers. Then, we will post our own reddit. Next, I will show teachers how to create and join their own community on Reddit. Finally,

	teachers will brainstorm their own lesson plans and post them on our own subreddit.
11:01-11:30	<p>Minilesson on how to use Reddit:</p> <p>Ask teachers to open up their laptops and visit the site Reddit.com. Refer participants to their handouts which include guides for how to use Reddit. Depending on what features participants already mentioned in their initial noticings about the website, spend more or less time explaining and modeling certain sections, as needed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You have all spent some time visiting the website. I want to show you some things that you can do with the website. Even if you are not going to use this website in the classroom, you can still use Reddit as a potential source for finding information, both for entertainment and for educational purposes. 2. Before we get started, you should create a username on Reddit. One thing that is nice about this site is that you do not have to give your email address to create a username. You will need a username to submit a link on Reddit. 3. Now, I want to search for redsits specific to teaching and education. This can be done by typing /r/teaching into the search. (Illustrate this process.) Because teaching is an established subreddit, you can subscribe to it. (Scroll mouse over link and click Subscribe.) If this wasn't an already established subreddit, we could create one. 4. Has everyone found a link or a subreddit that is about teaching? Raise your hand if you are having trouble. (Depending on how much trouble participants might be having, offer to come around and help, or have participants help each other.) 5. Now, we can up-vote or down-vote both the posts and the comments on the posts. (Model this.) Everyone take a moment and try this. 6. Any questions so far? 7. Now, I want to show you how to submit your own link on this subreddit. When you post a Reddit, you can post a link to any website, or you can write your own text. I recently read an article on CNN.com about President Obama honoring teachers. I want to post that article. So, first I find the article on CNN.com. Then I copy the link. When I return to Reddit, I find the place on the site that says "Submit a Link." Then I paste the link. As I paste, it gives me the chance to post on /r/teaching or another subreddit. Because I am posting about education, I will stay on this website. (Model the process of posting.) 8. Now that I have posted, I can return back later to see if anyone leaves any comments or if they up-vote or down-vote my link. It really is interesting to see how people respond to some of the things that are posted. When I check back in later, I will click the link "My Reddits" in the upper left hand corner. 9. I want to give you a few minutes to post your own reddit. I am going to walk around to see if you need any help. 10. (After a few minutes). So what did you think? Does anyone have any questions or comments so far?
11:30-11:45	<p>So now, I want to show you how you could implement using Reddit in your own classroom by creating your own community in Reddit. If you look at your handouts, I have provided instructions on how to create your own community. Unfortunately, you can only create your own community if you have been a member for at least 30 days. (Model the process of creating a community by following instruction on the handout). I have actually created a community for our professional development today. After you create your own lesson plans, I want you to post them on our subreddit.</p>
11:45-11:55	Now, I want you to turn your attention to the lesson plans I have provided in your packet.

	<p>These are just some ideas I have for how you could implement this in your classroom. I purposely included how I would show the class members to create usernames, etc., because that can be somewhat of a difficult process, but if it's done well, it can work. I want you to take 5 minutes and read the lesson plan over with a partner, making any notes or writing down any questions.</p>
11:55-12:00	Groups share any notes or questions about the lesson plan.
12:00-12:25	<p>Now, I would like you to write your own lesson plans. I have provided some additional ideas for how to use Reddit in the classroom. You may use those ideas or any of your own. When you are finished, please post your lesson plan ideas on our community's subreddit: ProfDevelopment428. (Walk around and observe students' progress and answer any questions.)</p>
12:25-12:30	<p>Thank everyone for joining me for the presentation. Ask participants to fill out questionnaire if they have time and to also post a few sentences on the group subreddit in response to the following questions:</p> <p><i>After learning about Reddit, do you see it as a valuable tool for your daily life? Can you see yourself using Reddit in your classroom?</i></p>